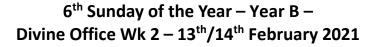
Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM





Middle-aged Ron lay dying in the hospital. The nurse rang and asked about giving him the Last Rites as he was so poorly. I went straight away and gave him the Last Rites. To my horror I found out no-one had visited him since being admitted - well over a week. I was the only one to go in, hold him, pray, and mop his brow. He died two days later. I gave him a "charity" funeral. The only person who attended his funeral was - me.

How is it in today's world of technology and electronic communication, people can be so lonely? Why not the opposite? Maybe we are too complacent with electronic communication that we forget how to "be with people in the flesh".

Loneliness is everywhere. Covid can just add to isolation. Our church <u>must</u> counteract loneliness, that is why church is about community, communion, holy communion – <u>being with people</u>. Anything that contradicts that must be an evil. See how evil Covid really is. Jesus always counteracts this evil. Today we see him 'touch' a leper, and so incurring an unclean status on himself, his solidarity with the sick and the lonely has begun. His cures always include reinstating people back into community. Sickness in Jesus' day always implied sin, isolation and loneliness. So healing is always about forgiveness, so reinstating someone back with people. (Covid, isolation, – yet for many, today will be Valentines Day!!)

Jesus both breaks the rules by touching the leper (see the first reading), and keeps the rules, by encouraging the man to show himself to the priests. Sheer genius.

Leprosy is a clear metaphor for all kinds of lonely sickness, and how we can *pigeon-hole* others, the person who may seem an 'outsider'. It's a clear call to check ourselves on this labelling of people. It can be easy to condemn others to loneliness and isolation, maybe without even realising it? And today it can also happen in far more sophisticated - 'cyber' ways - as we know only too well. Covid has its own challenges, let's not worsen things. It is so easy to exclude, and go so against Jesus' teachings, the basics of faith and church. Did Ron have to die alone, with no-one to visit and comfort him?

To those who seem "outsiders", do we include, accept and welcome them?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

PARISH DIARIES 2021 - Available from the church porch – suggested donation 20p

This week Fr Paul will say Mass for the following intentions:-

MASS INTENTIONS
Parish Community Ints
6 th Sunday of the Year
Luciano Menegatti RIP (Candi & Family)
Joyce Harforth RIP (Mary & Barrie Mason)
Mike Geeson RIP (The Geeson family)
ASH WEDNESDAY
Parish Community Ints
Bob Walker RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin) Joe Murphy RIP (Spooner family)
Betty Lowe RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Mike Barry RIP (Spooner family)
Parish Community Ints
First Sunday of Lent
Dec'd of Dannino & Amey Families RIP (Maria Amey)

PARISH PRIEST

Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229

www.olorchurch.org

email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Public Mass times:

Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am

Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.

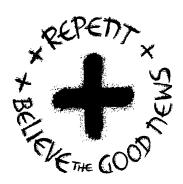
FRAUD NOTICES and HELPLINE NUMBERS

<u>Please please..take notice of these.</u> Some notices are deliberately kept in our newsletter towards the end so we all have <u>immediate</u> access to these notices, rather than panicking and wondering "where, or what week was it I saw those contact details?"

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 17th Masses will be 7.30 am, <u>9.30 am</u> and 8pm.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please note – This year the recommendation from both the authorities in Rome and Public Health England is that the ashes will be sprinkled over the heads of people as they leave the Church and care will be taken to avoid any hand to head contact. (The usual cross on the forehead will not be given.)



This will be done silently. The ashes will be blessed after the Gospel Reading and the usual prayer that is said when receiving the ashes ("Repent and believe the Good News") will be said only once over everyone present.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope.

You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

CAFOD - WALK FOR WATER

Mia, (Fr. Paul's sister) will be taking on the 'Walk for Water' challenge (10,000 steps a day) during Lent.



If you would like to sponsor her please go to

htpps://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/mias-walk-for-water Thank you.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH – TEACHING VACANCY

The Governors are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team from 1st September, 2021.

Full details and an application form can be obtained from the school website:

www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies

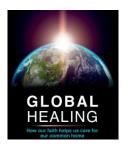
Closing date: Monday 15th March 2021 (4pm)

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE FROM BRENTWOOD TO ST PETER'S SQUARE,

The Knight's of St Columba in Brentwood are raising funds for the Brentwood Ecclesiastical Education Fund (BEEF), which is fund for the education of priests, and other KSC Charities, during the lent period. Each year the Knight's in Brentwood donate around £2,000 to the BEEF fund.

Four Rayleigh Knights, Tom Kennedy, Sean Corr, Brendan Murphy and Martin Doyle will undertake to walk 70 of the 1168 miles and would welcome sponsors. You can donate by sending a cheque (however small) made out to *The Knights of St Columba Co 456*.

Please send it addressed as follows: FAO The Knights of St Columba c/o The Presbytery 50 London Hill Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP.



Bishop John Arnold is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the **CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**.

He is speaking on **Thursday 18**th **February 7.30pm – 8.30pm** and the talks continue via Zoom on Thursdays in Lent.

To register please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global and for more information about this area of Catholic life and faith have a look at www.catholicclimatemovement.global

LENTEN SERVICES:

PATRIS CORDE - WITH A FATHER'S HEART

Live from Sacred Heart Church, Southend three services dedicated to St Joseph to include three talks to launch the year of St Joseph as announced by His Holiness Pope Francis on 8th December 2020.



Wednesday 24th February – 7.30pm - A beloved and tender loving Father.

Wednesday 3rd March – 7.30pm - An obedient and accepting Father.

Wednesday 10th March – 7.30pm - Creative and a hard working Father.

The services will be available live on this link... https://youtube.com/channel/UCPCBIIHf Wp-FxEd9YsqJwA

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which takes us **to late May.**



PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick members of our Parish and all our relatives and friends.

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for David Mansbridge, Selberia 'Be' Wrankmore, Ezio Carminati, Lily Worley and Catherine Butcher whose anniversaries occur about this time.



Mark and Yvonne Hidveghy would like to express their gratitude to the people of the parish for their messages of sympathy, prayers and the many Mass offerings they received following their father, Laci's death.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Annie Gray who died on 12^{th} January. Her Requiem Mass will be held on Friday 19^{th} February. Please keep Chris, Sean and the family in your prayers.

May she rest in peace. # #

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Please continue to support the parish financially with your weekly contributions – please email Fr Paul if you would like the parish bank account details to set up a standing order or to make a bacs donation.

Thank you to those that have already made arrangements - *Please make it clear whether it is an Offertory / Other donation on your payment reference and if you are already a gift-aider please quote your gift aid number.*

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (<u>olorgiftaid@hotmail.com</u> / 01268 772998) to arrange delivery/ collection of these / if you have any Gift Aid enquiries.

Where possible it is easier if donations are made by standing order quoting your gift aid number.

At the bottom of the parish website there is a pink "gift aid it" logo which, if you click on it, takes you to another parish web page which goes into more detail and has some frequently asked questions.

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) is available – but needs to be offered openly (ie. not in the traditional Confessional Box). If you wish for the Sacrament, please make a personal time by calling Fr. Paul. (The request itself is treated confidentially).

Public Masses:

Please **do not come** if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc.
Use common sense and **think of others**.

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.

Remember to wear a mask and SANITISE hands on entering the church.

Social Distance regulations **MUST** be adhered to at all times

Please follow <u>only</u> the directions of the Stewards.

The church will be both cleaned and sanitised regularly.

NEWSLETTERS

Just a few printed newsletters will be left on the shelf outside the presbytery. These are primarily designated for anyone who has no email access.

If you are able to print off newsletters yourselves and deliver to anyone who can't get out, that would be a great act of charity. Thank you.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive the newsletter by email each week, please in the first instance <u>email a request</u> to the parish office (<u>rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.



CAN THE SVP HELP?

Whilst our activities and support have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic the SVP remains available to offer help, where current regulations permit.

Should you need support, please contact **Colin Griffin** (tel. No. 01268 772322) or any other SVP member. Your call will be treated with complete confidentiality.

SCAM.....SCAM....SCAM

National Insurance Number Scam.

Many people have received automated phone calls stating that their National Insurance Number has been compromised. **THIS IS A SCAM.**

People are instructed to press 1 on their phone which will connect them and allegedly fix the problem and even be given a new National Insurance Number. IT IS A SCAM If you do, fraudsters can take control of your personal details leading to terrible consequences.

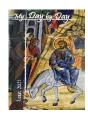
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

MASS CARDS, SYMPATHY CARDS AND OTHER CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS...

- normally sold in the Repository - these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.



2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80

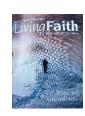


MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Lent

are now available

priced £1 each.



LIVING FAITH (Jan – March)

Popular booklet with a thought for every day for the next three months.

Limited number available....

Voluntary donations for the booklets welcome

If you would like to collect these from the Presbytery please contact Fr Paul. If you usually purchase these but are unable to collect or arrange for one to be collected for you, then we can arrange delivery.

NEW FAST COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE IN RAYLEIGH

A new fast testing centre is now open at The MegaCentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7UT for people who DO NOT have symptoms of Covid-19.

This testing centre, offering the fast Lateral Flow Tests, gives results in around 30 minutes. Tests are by appointment only. Anyone booking should live in the Rochford area of Essex. You can book a test if you don't have symptoms (Booking online is the quickest and most effective option) through the website (https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms)

If you're not able to book using the online form, you can call 0333 772 6144 to arrange an appointment. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm, every day including Saturday and Sunday. You can also email: booking.confirmation@nhs.net and a member of staff will contact you to arrange an appointment.

Anyone WITH symptoms should book a test on the NHS Test and Trace App or the gov.uk website.

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLOR'S (ACC) COVID-19 CRISIS COUNSELLING SUPPORT SERVICE





ACC have set up a new service – a Covid 19 Crisis Counselling
Support Service (CCSS) for NHS frontline staff. People working in a re

Support Service (CCSS) for NHS frontline staff, People working in a residential care home setting being directly impacted by caring for people who have Covid-19 and people who have been bereaved during the COVID-19 epidemic in the U.K.

The crisis counselling support service offers up to ten sessions of counselling on a no fee basis.

To find out more please visit ACC's website www.acc-uk.org or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.

ABUSE: Victim Support – Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been, or feels, they have experienced abuse through their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Telephone 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk LiveChat at www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk



SOME USEFUL NUMBERS THAT MAY HELP YOU, YOUR FAMILIES OR NEIGHBOURS.



ABUSE AND OTHER HELPLINES – USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police - call 999 – if you cannot respond due to danger, tap the mobile handset or cough, then when prompted press 55 (this takes you straight through to the police)

Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 200 0247

www.national dahelp line.org.uk

Men's advice line 0808 801 0327 <u>www.mensadviceline.org.uk</u>

Rape Crisis 0808 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Respect phoneline 0808 999 4040 www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Karma Nirvana – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247 support@karmanirvana.org.uk

Stay Safe East 0208 519 7241 (focus on people with disabilities) Text 07587 134122

NSPCC 0808 800 5000 Email help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection www.thinkuknow.co.uk

This site offers help for parents and children (at their level) from 4years old upwards.

Coronavirus-related scams / Fraud or Attempted Fraud

For the latest information go to http://actionfraud.police.uk/news

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex

Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at

www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Call 0845 390 6232 skype 0303 040 1112

email - support@ocdaction.org.uk

ISOLATED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS - HOW TO OBTAIN HELP

The source of your support depends on which category of 'shielding' you fall into. **Category 1** - you have been contacted by the NHS and told to remain at home for 12 weeks. You are being supported directly from the government. If you were not contacted by the NHS and told this then you do not fall into this category.

Category 2 - anyone over the age of 70, plus anyone under the age of 70 with certain serious health conditions plus pregnant women - you are being supported by Essex County Council through their Essex Welfare Service. Please contact them on 0300 303 9988.

Category 3 - Everyone else.

You are supported by the **new helpline** set up by Rochford District Council in partnership with local faith groups, churches and voluntary organisations. If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 779999**.









COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.



PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The NHS will:

- NEVER ask for payment the vaccine is free
- NEVER ask for your bank details
- NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

TOP 4 VACCINE SCAMS



TEXT MESSAGES

People are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again.



PHONE CALLS

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details



WEBSITES

Fake URL links to convincing-looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



IN PERSON

Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.

Essex Police Fraud Alert System



5th February 2021

INSTAGRAM TRADERS — LIVING THEIR BEST LIFE, NOT THEIR REAL LIFE

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, people have increasingly turned to social media as a way of connecting with each other and filling their leisure time. This has resulted in a 50% increase per month in reports of Instagram fraud, with an average loss of £200,000.

MONEY FLIPPING SCAMS

There are a wide variety of Instagram scams, but one of the most common is 'money flipping' investment scams. These scams often rely on profiles showing the extravagant lifestyles of those involved to encourage followers to get involved with their 'trading schemes'. Many of these images show the traders in exotic locations with luxury cars and boats—most of which have been rented purely for the photoshoot.

These schemes promise high returns for a low initial investment. When investors see their profits rise, they invest increasing amounts of money. However, when they try and withdraw money, they may be unable to do so, and before long, there will be no trace of the investments they have made.





What can I do?

- Check if the firm is authorised even if they say they are! If you use an unauthorised firm, you are unlikely to be able to get your money back if things go wrong.
- Get impartial advice making an investment is a big financial decision! You should consider getting impartial financial advice from a regulated financial advisor or approved sites such as the Money Advice Service.
- If you're suspicious, report it don't allow yourself to be pressured into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, then it usually is! Allow yourself time to do all the research you need to do, and if you're still not sure then report to the FCA on 0800 111 6768 or at www.fca.org.uk.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101 Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040









BE ALERT TO VACCINE FRAUD

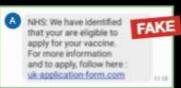
Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS

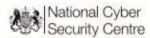
The NHS will:

- NEVER ask for payment the vaccine is free
- NEVER ask for your bank details
- NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport





FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT



If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.



If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; actionfraud.police.uk or via phone 0300 123 2040.

CrimeStoppers.

If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online; covidfraudhotline.org or phone 0800 587 5030.

Essex Police Fraud Alert System



29th January 2021

VACCINATION SCAMS CONTINUE!

Following on from the previous alert regarding vaccination text messages, there is a new fraudulent vaccination email being circulated. Again, this looks very convincing and could easily be mistaken for a genuine NHS email.

Do not click the link as it takes the recipient to a malicious website that steals personal details. These details are then used by the criminals to access other personal accounts.

Remember:

- Never click on any links in unsolicited emails
- Check the email address is genuine by hovering over it or clicking and holding
- · The vaccine is free and the NHS will never ask you for bank or payment details





If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at action fraud, police.uk or call 0300 123 2040







Essex Police Fraud Alert System



HACK MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO

As the pandemic has forced more of us to move online for work, shopping and leisure, we need to be vigilant to protect ourselves from hackers and financial loss.

1055.

22nd January 2021



Use 'UPDATES' to help you protect your online accounts:



Update regularly—make sure that your computer and also any phones and tablets you own have the most recent *patches* (updates) for apps, software and operating systems.



Passwords—ensure you have strong and unique passwords for each account yes, that does mean a different password for each account! If you're struggling to keep track, consider using a password manager to store your passwords securely.



Download from authorised sources only—if you have to download or install anything yourself make sure it comes from a trusted source. If not you could download a programme that contains things like *spyware* which will steal your personal data.



'Administrator' should not be your default setting—administrator access should only be used on your computer when installing trusted programmes. If administrator mode is your default setting and you download a malicious programme, hackers can get in and change whatever they want on your device.



Turn it off—in order to ensure that no one can access your device when you're not using it, turn it off when you're done. Also consider logging out of sites once you have finished using them or turning your WiFi off if not using it.



Encrypt your data—encrypting (scrambling) your data does not stop it being intercepted, but it does mean that it cannot be read by unauthorised users. Check that websites are secure by looking for the little padlock in the address bar before submitting sensitive information on the internet. You can also research other ways to encrypt your files.



Store your data separately—back up any important data on a USB or external hard drive, and store it away from your computer to keep those copies extra safe!



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040



Keep up to date with fraud and do even more Online de essex.police.uk

READINGS AT MASS – 6th Sunday of the Year

First reading - Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

The unclean man must live outside the camp

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Psalm 31

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
 O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
- But now I have acknowledged my sins my guilt I did not hide.
 I said; "I will confess my offence to the Lord."
 And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. (R.)
- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
 O Come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. (R.)



Second reading – 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Take me for your model, as I take Christ

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

